

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 587

To promote economic partnership and cooperation between the United States  
and Mexico.

---

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 27, 2019

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. KAINE) introduced the following bill; which  
was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

---

## A BILL

To promote economic partnership and cooperation between  
the United States and Mexico.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “United States-Mexico  
5       Economic Partnership Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

8               (1) The United States and Mexico have bene-  
9       fitted from a bilateral, mutually beneficial partner-

1 ship focused on advancing the economic interests of  
2 both countries.

3 (2) In 2013, Mexico adopted major energy re-  
4 forms that opened its energy sector to private invest-  
5 ment, increasing energy cooperation between Mexico  
6 and the United States and opening new opportuni-  
7 ties for United States energy engagement.

8 (3) On January 18, 2018, the Principal Deputy  
9 Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Af-  
10 fairs at the Department of State stated, “Our ex-  
11 change programs build enduring relationships and  
12 networks to advance U.S. national interests and for-  
13 eign policy goals. . . . The role of our exchanges  
14 . . . in advancing U.S. national security and eco-  
15 nomic interests enjoys broad bipartisan support from  
16 Congress and other stakeholders, and provides a  
17 strong return on investment.”.

18 (4) According to the Institute of International  
19 Education, in the 2015–2016 academic year, more  
20 than 56,000 United States students studied in other  
21 countries in the Western Hemisphere region while  
22 more than 84,000 non-United States students from  
23 the region studied in the United States, but only  
24 5,000 of those United States students studied in

1 Mexico and only 16,000 of those non-United States  
2 students were from Mexico.

3 (5) In March 2011, the United States launched  
4 the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative, which  
5 seeks to increase educational exchanges between the  
6 United States and other countries in the Western  
7 Hemisphere region so that 100,000 United States  
8 students are studying in other countries in the West-  
9 ern Hemisphere region and 100,000 non-United  
10 States students from the region are studying in the  
11 United States per year by 2020.

12 (6) In January 2014, the United States estab-  
13 lished the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innova-  
14 tion Fund, which seeks to realize the goals of the  
15 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative by facili-  
16 tating a public-private partnership between the De-  
17 partment of State and nongovernmental organiza-  
18 tions, corporations, and universities in the United  
19 States and other countries of the Western Hemi-  
20 sphere region.

21 (7) To date, the 100,000 Strong in the Amer-  
22 icas Innovation Fund has awarded more than 100  
23 grants to more than 250 higher education institu-  
24 tions from 25 countries in the Western Hemisphere  
25 region, and has raised \$9,000,000 in investments,

1       75 percent of which was from corporations, founda-  
2       tions, and regional governments.

3   **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

4       It is the policy of the United States—

5           (1) to continue deepening economic cooperation  
6       between the United States and Mexico; and

7           (2) to seek to prioritize and expand educational  
8       and professional exchange programs with Mexico, in-  
9       cluding through the framework of the 100,000  
10      Strong in the Americas Initiative.

11 **SEC. 4. STRATEGY TO PRIORITIZE AND EXPAND EDU-**  
12 **CATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE**  
13 **PROGRAMS WITH MEXICO.**

14      (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall de-  
15 velop a strategy to carry out the policy described in section  
16 3, which shall include prioritizing and expanding edu-  
17 cational and professional exchange programs with Mexico  
18 through the framework of the 100,000 Strong in the  
19 Americas Initiative.

20      (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under sub-  
21 section (a) shall—

22           (1) encourage more academic exchanges be-  
23       tween the United States and Mexico at the sec-  
24       ondary, post-secondary, and post-graduate levels, es-  
25       pecially with communities and through academic in-

stitutions in the covered United States-Mexico border region;

(2) encourage United States and Mexican academic institutions and businesses to collaborate to assist prospective and developing entrepreneurs in strengthening their business skills and promoting cooperation and joint business initiatives across the United States and Mexico, with a focus on initiatives in the covered United States-Mexico border region;

(3) promote energy infrastructure coordination and cooperation through support of vocational-level education, internships, and exchanges between the United States and Mexico; and

(4) assess the feasibility of fostering partnerships between universities in the United States and medical school and nursing programs in Mexico to ensure that medical school and nursing programs in Mexico have comparable accreditation standards as medical school and nursing programs in the United States by the Accreditation and Standards in Foreign Medical Education, in addition to the Accreditation Commission For Education in Nursing, so that medical students can pass medical licensing board exams, and nursing students can pass nursing licensing exams, in the United States.

1       (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
2 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall  
3 submit a report to Congress that describes the strategy  
4 required under subsection (a).

5 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

6       In this Act:

7           (1) 100,000 STRONG IN THE AMERICAS INITIA-  
8       TIVE.—The term “100,000 Strong in the Americas  
9       Initiative” means the initiative established in March  
10      2011 by the United States Government to increase  
11      educational exchanges in the Western Hemisphere.

12          (2) COVERED UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER  
13      REGION.—The term “covered United States-Mexico  
14      border region” means those portions of the United  
15      States and Mexico that are within 100 kilometers of  
16      the international boundary between those countries.

○